

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today the acceptance of the gift of the Richter Archive of Illustrations on Art containing more than 60,000 reproductions of paintings of all schools. The gift was made by Mr. Solomon R. Guggenheim of New York, noted industrialist, art collector and president of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.

Mr. Guggenheim has long been interested in non-objective art, and the Foundation which he established maintains the most important museum of non-objective painting in this country. Baroness Hilla Rebay, Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, originated the plan to house the Richter Archive in the National Gallery of Art.

John Walker, Chief Curator of the National Gallery, stated that the Richter Archive offered unique opportunities for research in the history of painting. The Archive consists of more than 60,000 photographs and cuttings from books and periodicals covering all the schools of art, but with particular emphasis on Italian painting. The reproductions were collected by the late Dr. George Martin Richter, noted authority on Giorgione and other Italian artists. All the illustrations have been arranged by Dr. Richter according to the most recent discoveries in attribution and chronology. Many of the photographs have been annotated by Dr. Richter himself and offer the benefit

of this distinguished scholar's lifelong researches into the history of art.

The Richter Archive will provide reproductions of inestimable value to scholars working in Washington, and will help to establish a new center of scholarship in the history of painting similar to the Frick Art Reference Library in New York. The collection of photographs of Italian paintings, one of the most complete in existence, will also be of particular interest in the National Gallery where the assemblage of Italian works of art from the Kress, Widener and Mellon Collections is among the greatest in the world.

The importance of the Richter Archive, moreover, has been increased by the present war. The photographs it contains will be an invaluable record of many works of art from the great European museums now either destroyed or dispersed. The photographs of paintings in private collections, to which Dr. Richter had access, are in many cases unique, and may be of great assistance in establishing the rightful ownership of works of art when the war is over.